

FW: Minnesota hot issue update

Short, Thomas

Wed 9/24/2014 12:25 PM

To: Peterson, John <peterson.john@epa.gov>;

Cc: Mcseveney, Megan <mcseveney.megan@epa.gov>; Fischer, Timothy <Fischer.Timothy@epa.gov>; Evison, Leah <evison.leah@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>; Karl, Richard <karl.richard@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>;

1 attachment (15 KB)

updated hot sites.docx;

John, attached are updated summaries for Reilly and General Mills. We'll also submit updates for St. Louis River and Freeway LF later this afternoon.

From: Evison, Leah
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:11 AM
To: Short, Thomas
Cc: Fischer, Timothy; Mcseveney, Megan
Subject: RE: Minnesota hot issue update

I've attached updates for Reilly and General Mills. Please review and forward to John Peterson when they're final.

Leah

Leah Evison

US EPA Remedial Project Manager/Region 5

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From: Short, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:54 AM
To: Peterson, John
Cc: Evison, Leah; Fischer, Timothy
Subject: RE: Minnesota hot issue update

John, Leah is back. We'll take a look at them and update them.

From: Peterson, John
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:53 AM
To: Short, Thomas
Subject: Minnesota hot issue update

Hello Tom,

Susan is making a quick trip to the University of Minnesota this Friday and wants Minnesota hot issues updated if necessary. Can someone look these over and see if they need changes? Leah is out of the country, isn't she? I didn't send this message to her. Maybe she's back.

Of course I'll need the updates today, if possible. You didn't think you'd have a lot of time, did you? :(

Thanks for checking.

- john

Issue: EPA Demands Improved Gradient Control at Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund Site – St. Louis Park

Background/Status: This February, EPA notified the responsible party (Vertellus Specialties Inc.) of a failure to perform the remedy at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park Plant) Superfund site. The city of St. Louis Park is implementing the remedy for Vertellus under a consent decree with EPA and the state. EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency officials believe the contaminated groundwater plume is inadequately monitored and is not being captured in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer. This is the major drinking water aquifer for St. Louis Park and surrounding communities. Contaminant concentrations are rising in public drinking water wells of neighboring Edina in this aquifer and have twice exceeded conservative warning levels in the CD. The levels in Edina wells remain far below MCLs. Affected drinking water wells in the city of St. Louis Park are being treated successfully.

On May 1, 2014, the city of St. Louis Park submitted a draft gradient control plan that also includes a proposal for new monitoring wells to serve as early warning of any additional plume movement toward neighboring Edina and Hopkins. This plan is currently under review by EPA, MPCA, and the Minnesota Department of Health.

The City of St. Louis Park has also requested a modification of the consent decree to update the drinking water criteria. EPA agrees and is in the process of referring the matter to the Department of Justice. Minnesota is also in the process of developing new health-based levels for several contaminants present at the site.

Messages:

- EPA is working with the city of St. Louis Park to improve control of the groundwater plume to better protect neighboring communities of Edina and Hopkins.
- EPA officials believe that the groundwater plume from the Reilly Tar Superfund Site is not being adequately contained in the Prairie du Chien aquifer.

Contacts: Leah Evison, SFD, 651-757-2898, evison.leah@epa.gov (stationed in St. Paul, MN); Tom Short, SFD, 312-353-8826, short.thomas@epa.gov

Issue: Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Continues at General Mills Site -- Minneapolis

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Background/Status: In December 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency notified the public that sub-slab sampling at the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site in Minneapolis showed contaminant concentrations in vapor that exceed health-based screening levels. Since then, General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems for 92 houses under MPCA oversight and expects to install systems in about 50 more houses. MPCA has implemented an extensive community involvement plan. TCE contamination in groundwater is the cause of the vapor problem. EPA does not have a direct role in overseeing the actions since this is a state-lead site, but EPA does offer technical support when requested by MPCA. EPA is also assisting with MPCA's five-year review of the groundwater remedy.

Message:

- EPA provides technical assistance for the vapor mitigation ongoing at the General Mills Superfund site.
- The state oversees the work done by General Mills and conducts extensive community involvement.
- General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems at 92 houses so far.

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John Peterson

Writer/Editor

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Issue: EPA Demands Improved Gradient Control at Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund Site – St. Louis Park

Background/Status: This past February, EPA notified the responsible party (Vertellus Specialties Inc.) of a failure to perform the remedy at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park Plant) Superfund site. The city of St. Louis Park is implementing the remedy for Vertellus under a consent decree with EPA and the state. EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency officials believe the contaminated groundwater plume is inadequately monitored and is not being captured in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer. This is the major drinking water aquifer for St. Louis Park and surrounding communities. Contaminant concentrations are rising in public drinking water wells of neighboring Edina in this aquifer and have twice exceeded conservative warning levels in the CD. The levels in Edina wells remain far below MCLs. Affected drinking water wells in the city of St. Louis Park are being treated successfully.

After disapproving two inadequate gradient control and monitoring plans submitted by the city of St. Louis Park, on September 8, 2014, EPA and MPCA conditionally approved use of three existing wells as new monitoring wells to serve as early warning of any additional plume movement toward neighboring Edina and Hopkins. These wells will be sampled this fall. EPA and MPCA also notified the city that we have no objection to proposed increased pumping of two existing pumping wells, but that it had not been demonstrated that the proposed pumping would control the plume. EPA and MPCA specified the pumping locations that we believe will control the plume.

The city of St. Louis Park has also requested a modification of the consent decree to update the drinking water criteria. EPA agrees and is in the process of referring this matter as well as the gradient control matter to the Department of Justice. Since the Consent Decree was signed, EPA has developed new risk-based levels for several contaminants present at the site and Minnesota is also in the process of developing several new health-based levels for several contaminants.

Messages:

- EPA is working with the city of St. Louis Park to improve control of the groundwater plume to better protect neighboring communities of Edina and Hopkins.
- EPA officials believe that the groundwater plume from the Reilly Tar Superfund Site is not being adequately contained in the Prairie du Chien aquifer.

Contacts: Leah Evison, SFD, 651-757-2898, evison.leah@epa.gov (stationed in St. Paul, MN); Tom Short, SFD, 312-353-8826, short.thomas@epa.gov

Issue: Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Nears Completion at General Mills Site -- Minneapolis

Background/Status: In December 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency notified the public that sub-slab sampling at the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site in Minneapolis showed contaminant concentrations in vapor that exceed health-based screening levels. Since then, General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems for 176 houses under MPCA oversight, and is continuing to pursue access to approximately seven additional properties that likely require mitigation. In addition, General Mills and MPCA are continuing to sample at several apartment buildings and 11 houses outside of the mitigation area to further confirm the boundaries of the mitigation area, and are continuing to sample on-site commercial buildings that may require mitigation. MPCA has implemented an extensive community involvement plan. TCE contamination in groundwater is the cause of the vapor problem. EPA does not have a direct role in overseeing the actions since this is a state-lead site, but EPA does offer technical support when requested by MPCA. EPA is also assisting with MPCA's five-year review of the groundwater remedy.

Message:

- EPA provides technical assistance for the vapor mitigation ongoing at the General Mills Superfund site.
- The state oversees the work done by General Mills and conducts extensive community involvement.
- General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems at 176 houses so far.

Contacts: Leah Evison, SFD St. Paul Office, 651-757-2898, evision.leah@epa.gov